

The President's Daily Brief

29 April 1969

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30 April 1969

LATE NOTES FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF OF
29 APRIL 1969

I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

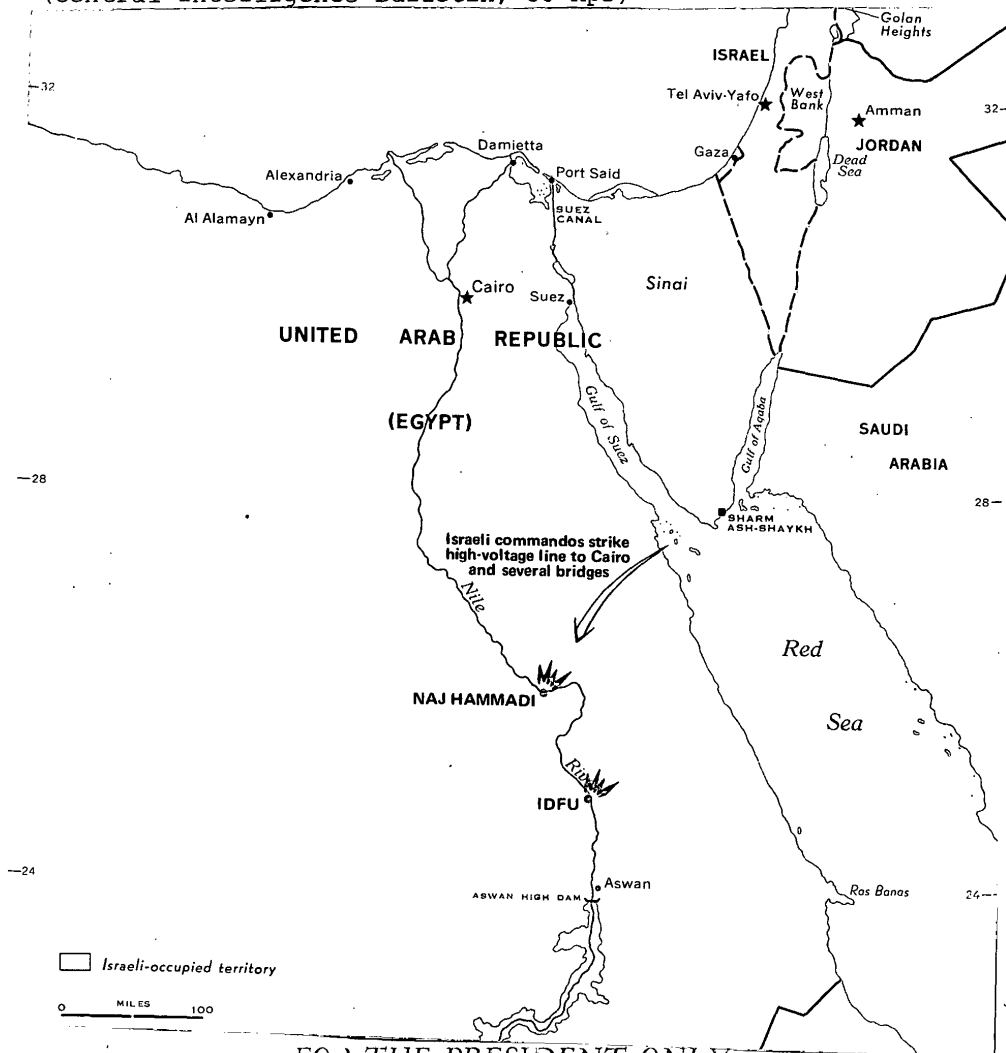
MIDDLE EAST

Israeli commandos struck deep into upper Egypt this morning. According to the Israeli communiqué, the commandos hit a high-voltage line feeding power to Cairo, and several Nile River bridges. The strike sites, according to Cairo Radio, included Naj Hammadi, which the Israelis hit last October, and Idfu, which is some 60 miles north of the Aswan Dam.

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Cairo has initially sought to play down this raid, but Nasir will likely be under considerable pressure to take some face-saving retaliatory action.

(Central Intelligence Bulletin, 30 Apr)



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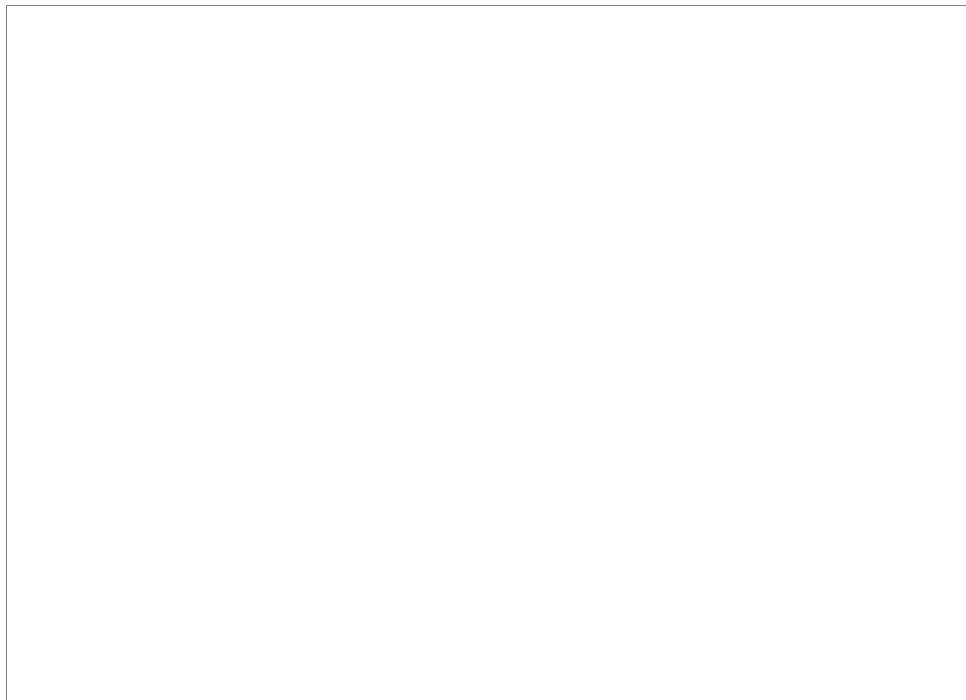
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The Quai has instructed French ambassadors in Arab countries to take the line that De Gaulle's departure will not produce any change in French Middle East policy during the interim period and probably not even after the election of a new president. The ambassadors are also instructed, however, to get the message over that Paris' current policy will continue only so long as the Arab states act responsibly.

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VIETNAM



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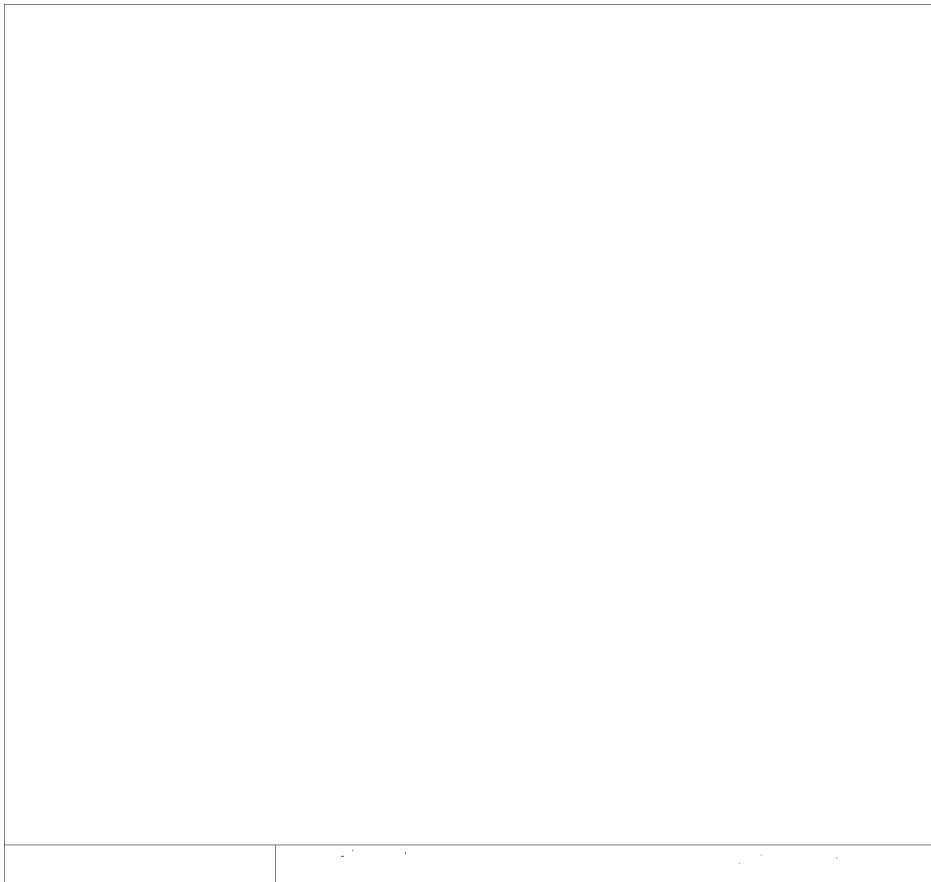
There is nothing significant to report on any other area.

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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

MIDDLE EAST

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VIETNAM

Interparty rivalries are preventing Thieu's mobilization of South Vietnam's political parties and groups from getting off to a fast start, but the effort nevertheless seems to be moving ahead at a steady pace.

The important Greater Solidarity Force, a Catholic group, stayed away from the preliminary organizational

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meetings held last Friday and Sunday, apparently in an attempt to secure promises of spoils of office in return for its support. Thieu's aide, Nguyen Van Huong, who chaired these meetings, made it clear to all prospective members, however, that cabinet posts will not be handed out in exchange for support.

Another group, the Vietnam Nationalist Party (VNQDD) failed to attend because its three factions still have not been able to patch up their differences and decide on a joint policy toward the confederation.

The ten groups that did participate, however, agreed to cooperate in the confederation. They also agreed that the presidium of the new body would actually be advisory in nature and that Thieu would have full power to make decisions for the confederation after consulting the presidium.

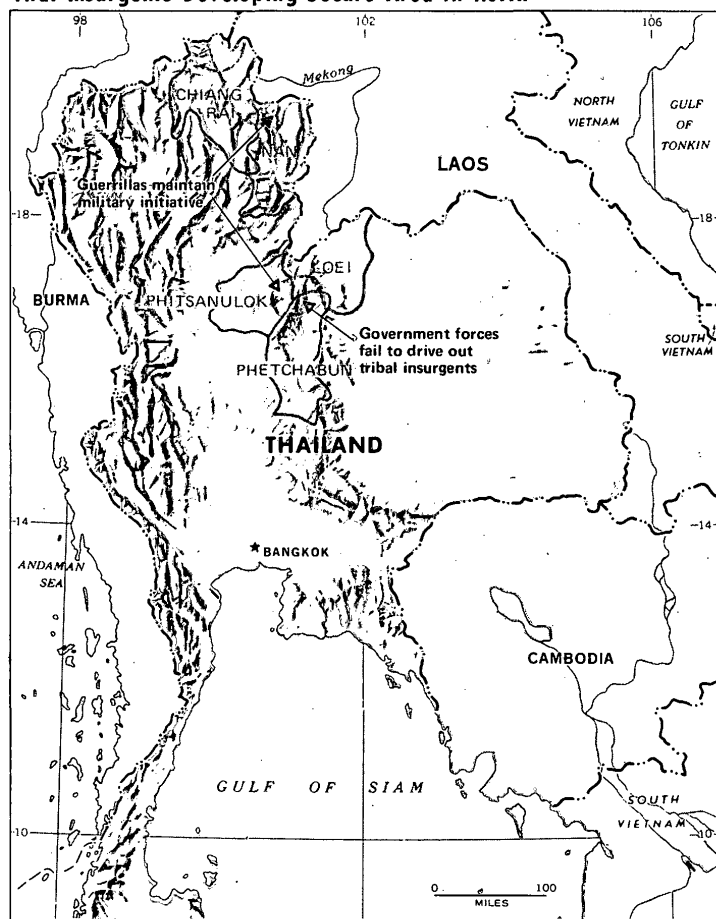
EUROPE

There is nothing of significance to report.

SOVIET AFFAIRS

There is nothing of significance to report.

Thai Insurgents Developing Secure Area in North



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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

THAILAND

The Communists are making further headway in developing secure base areas in the north. The insurgents apparently are strengthening their hold in the villages as government forces pull back from advanced positions into garrisons in the valleys.

The Communist effort is receiving substantial assistance from North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao elements in Laos. Recent evidence has provided new details on a long standing infiltration and support organization, apparently run by a Thai Communist Party headquarters group in Laos, that includes training camps, forward support bases, and supply trails leading into each of the main operating areas in the north.

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such assistance has increased in recent months.

The government has made little progress either in training friendly tribal self-defense forces and resettling refugees, or in coping with unfriendly tribal insurgents. Thai troops in the north central area are now bogged down in defensive positions. The government apparently is gambling that it can afford to write off the insurgent areas, while it builds security in the lowlands.

NIGERIA

For the past few weeks, arms supplies have been flowing into Biafra at an unprecedented rate. Many of

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these have come from France at the urging of Ivory Coast President Houphouet-Boigny. Continued support on the present scale by De Gaulle's successors is by no means certain, but the Biafrans should be able to manage nicely with what they have for a while.

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